

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 ACDA-05 SAM-01 OFA-01 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04

SIL-01 TRSE-00 OMB-01 AID-05 /103 W

----- 016569

R 171011Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4175

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 14854

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR JA KN

SUBJ: JAPAN SOCIALIST PARTY VISIT TO NORTH KOREA

1. AT OCTOBER 14 AND 15 PRESS CONFERENCES IN PEKING AND TOKYO, JSP VICE CHAIRMAN ISAMU AKAMATSU MADE FOLLOWING POINTS IN CONNECTION WITH HIS DELEGATION'S VISIT TO PYONGYANG TO CELEBRATE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF FOUNDING OF KOREAN WORKERS PARTY:

A. DELEGATION HAD FRIENDLY TWO-AND-A-HALF-HOUR TALK WITH KIM IL-SUNG, AND CONVERSATIONS WITH OTHER DPRK OFFICIALS.

B. NORTH KOREA WILL ACCEPT PRIVATE FISHERIES DELEGATION FROM JAPAN FOR PURPOSE OF NEGOTIATING FISHERIES AGREEMENT, BUT ONLY ON CONDITION THAT GROUP "GUARANTEED" BY NOTE VERBALE FROM GOJ. JSP ADVOCATES THAT SUCH DELEGATION BE SENT IN APRIL.

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C. NORTH KOREANS TOLD SOCIALISTS THAT JAPANESE GOVERNMENT HAD CONTACTED THEIR EMBASSY BY PHONE IN MOSCOW BUT THAT NORTH KOREAN EMBASSY HAD IGNORED CALL SINCE DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS DO NOT EXIST BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENTS.

D. THE HEALTH OF THE TWO WOUNDED SHOSEI MARU CREWMEN HAS IMPROVED, BUT THEY ARE NOT COMPLETELY RECOVERED. BOTH HAVE BEEN ISSUED WINTER CLOTHES.

E. DPRK WILL NOT PERMIT JAPAN TO ESTABLISH TRADE OFFICE IN PYONGYANG UNTIL GOJ ALTERS ITS POLICY OF HOSTILITY TOWARD NORTH KOREA.

2. COMMENT: SOCIALISTS ANXIOUS TO PROVE TO DOMESTIC POLITICAL AUDIENCE THAT THEY STILL HAVE INSIDE TRACK WITH PYONGYANG. THEY WANT TO NEGATE CONTRARY IMPRESSION CREATED DURING RECENT VISITS BY LDP DIETMEMBERS UTSUNOMIYA AND TAMURA, ET AL.

3. FONOFF REACTION TOWARD VISIT HAS BEEN DETACHED. NORTHEAST ASIA DIVDIR ENDO POINTS OUT THAT NO ONE IN FISHERIES AGENCY OR FISHING COMMUNITY HAS APPROACHED FONOFF ON SUBJECT OF FORMING DELEGATION. HE DOUBTS THAT, GIVEN DISPARITY OF INTERESTS IN FISHING COMMUNITY, DELEGATION CAN BE FORMED. FONOFF WILL RESPOND ONLY WHEN APPROACHED.

4. WHEN TIME COMES SOMEDAY TO ESTABLISH RELATIONS WITH NORTH KOREANS, ENDO SPECULATED THAT GOJ WOULD MOVE DIRECTLY RATHER THAN FOLLOW SAME PROGRESSION -- PRIVATE FISHERIES AGREEMENT THEN TRADE OFFICE THEN EMBASSY -- THAT HAD PROVED USEFUL IN CASE OF PRC. FISHERIES AGREEMENT LIKELY TO BE VERY DIFFICULT TO ACCOMPLISH. TRADE OFFICE UNNECESSARY SINCE JAPAN-DPRK TRADE COUNCIL MEMBERS AND PRIVATE TRADING FIRMS HAVE DE FACTO CONTINUOUS REPRESENTATION IN PYONGYANG (SIX-MONTHS VISAS WITH IMMEDIATE REPLACEMENTS PERMITTED).

5. SOCIALISTS REPORT LENDS WEIGHT TO RUMORS HERE THAT GOJ ATTEMPT TO CONTACT NORTH KOREANS OCCURRED THROUGH EMBASSIES IN MOSCOW. AUSTRALIAN DIPLOMATS IN TOKYO ALSO REPORT THAT CONTACTS ATTEMPTED, ALSO TO NO AVAIL, IN CANBERRA AND STOCKHOLM.

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6. FINALLY, ISSUANCE OF WINTER CLOTHING TO "SHOSEI MARU" CREWMEN FURTHERS OUR IMPRESSION THAT PYONGYANG ANTICIPATES EXTENDED CONVALESCENCE. PICTURES OF CREWMEN APPEARING IN PRESS GIVE IMPRESSION OF RUDE GOOD HEALTH.
HODGSON

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